

**State and Tribal Regional Issues/Priorities
in regard to the
Revision of the U.S. EPA's 2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan**

**Region 5
Goals 1, 3, 4, and 5**

How information was gathered

Region 5 sought input from the states in the Region through a direct solicitation to the state members of the Region 5/State Planning Work Group and through program to program contacts between Region 5 program managers and their state counterparts. Region 5 sought input from the tribes in the Region through a direct solicitation to the environmental coordinators for each tribe and through discussion in the Regional Tribal Operations Committee.

Description of key state and tribal issues/priorities

None of the Region 5 states or tribes has, to date, identified any issues or priorities for the revision of the U.S. EPA's strategic plan for 2006 – 2011.

**State and Tribal Regional Issues/Priorities
in regard to the
Revision of the U.S. EPA's 2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan**

**Region 5
Goal 2**

How information was gathered

Region 5 sought input from the states in the Region through a direct solicitation to the state members of the Region 5/State Planning Work Group and through program to program contacts between Region 5 program managers and their state counterparts. The Region 5 Water Division solicited state issues/priorities through an email to our state Surface and Ground Water / Drinking Water counterparts. This email explained that this effort was the first step in EPA's process to revise its Strategic Plan. We asked states to identify priorities that rise to the national level so that they could be considered during the Agency's Strategic Plan revision. We also specifically requested the states to consider, and provide input on, their expectations for meeting Measure L and the comments coming out of the PART review. Particularly, we asked the states for suggestions regarding Objectives/Measures/priorities under a new Strategic Plan that support (or hinder) Measure L.

Region 5 sought input from the tribes in the Region through a direct solicitation to the environmental coordinators for each tribe and through discussion in the Regional Tribal Operations Committee.

Description of key state and tribal issues/priorities

Issue: Infrastructure Funding

Impact/relevance to strategic plan: There is a need to emphasize maintenance of existing infrastructure so that investments that have been made to protect water quality are adequately supported and even enhanced. Recent events in the Gulf highlight the need to prioritize this work. Also, cities increasingly will be needing to make investments in stormwater management infrastructure, and national priorities should reflect this need as well as its importance in protecting and restoring waters.

Issue prevalence: This issue would be applicable to most, if not all, Region 5 states.

Issue: Watershed Restoration

Impact/relevance to strategic plan: Current language in the strategic plan is unworkable and makes it difficult to target limited resources in ways that provide demonstrable results. The idea of targeting efforts to the most important problems and measuring progress in terms of load reduction is supported. By making these changes, watershed protection and restoration efforts will have more meaningful goals to guide them.

Issue prevalence: This issue would be applicable to most, if not all, Region 5 states.

Priority: Technology Based Effluent Limitations

Impact/relevance to strategic plan: EPA needs to be more aggressive in developing and updating the technology based Effluent Limitations. Effluent Guidelines and related technology-based Effluent Limitations represent the first of Congress' basic two-prong water pollution control strategy reflected in the CWA. First, the USEPA is to set technology-based Effluent Guidelines and Effluent Limitations that generally require uniform pollution reduction equal to what is technically and economically achievable by the various classes and categories of industries nationwide. Such technology-based limits must be set regardless of the water quality needs or benefits associated with this level of pollution reduction. Second, the requirement is to evaluate whether additional water quality problems or hazards persist despite the application of such technology-based Effluent Limitations. If so, then there is a need to set additional water quality-based Effluent Limitations to eliminate any water quality problems.

Priority prevalence: This priority is applicable to all Region 5 states.